GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING:

An inclusive Climate Change Strategy in the municipality of Bogdanci, North Macedonia



Overview of the issue

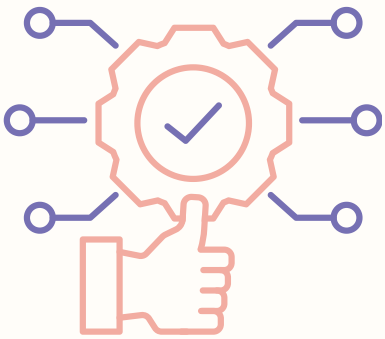
The Municipality of Bogdanci is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, experiencing extreme heatwaves, extended droughts, and an increasing number of fires. While these climate challenges negatively impact the health and quality of life in the entire local community, the burdens are disproportionately felt by vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. In 2014, Bogdanci developed a Climate Change Strategy valid until 2020, but the unequal representation of women in decision-making processes prevented them from fully contributing to environmental policy planning. There was a pressing need to revise the strategy because **awareness of climate change and its gendered impacts remained low among both decision-makers and citizens.**

GRB Analysis Findings

- An analysis of the previous Climate Change Strategy (2014-2020) was conducted from a gender perspective to identify weaknesses and determine how input data should be structured for the new strategy.
- During the strategy development process, **workshops and training sessions focusing on gender equality and environmental strategic planning** were held for municipal stakeholders and civil society.
- The analysis and accompanying questionnaires revealed that **many women were initially unaware of how climate change directly affects them or how they can help reduce its impact.** By the final workshop, the use of evaluation tools showed that 73 percent of participants had gained a better understanding of the significance of incorporating gender equality into environmental documents.



Recommendations



Based on the policy analysis, specific guidelines were formulated to ensure the new strategy was gender-responsive. The key recommendations included:

- Collecting and analyzing **gender-sensitive data** to inform policy.
- Actively **consulting women, men, beneficiaries,** and civil society representatives on climate issues and potential solutions.
- Formulating measures and activities that guarantee the participation of women, both as beneficiaries of the program and in **decision-making processes.**
- **Establishing gender-sensitive indicators** and **implementing** gender-responsive financing to support the strategy's goals.

Advocacy impact

As a direct result of the participatory workshops and advocacy efforts, the **"Climate Change Strategy for the Municipality of Bogdanci 2026-2033"** was unanimously adopted by the Municipality Council on April 27, 2026. Representatives from the Municipality of Bogdanci enhanced their capacity to apply GRB tools in future policymaking. Furthermore, the initiative successfully shifted the focus toward local budget allocations; proposals will be drafted to ensure that the 2027 municipal budget includes specific funds to implement the strategy's measures, thereby contributing to a balanced distribution of resources that meets the differing needs of women and men.

Main challenges

The main challenge encountered during the process was the **pacing of administrative procedures**. Local and national institutions required more time than the legal provisions allowed for certain steps, which caused delays in the project timeline specifically regarding the public consultation phase for the mandatory Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) document.

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